

# *Office of Child Support*

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# Why Child Support?

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Almost **40%** of Vermont children born to unwed parents



Nationally, more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of all kids will live in a **single parent household** at some point



Child Support provides **40%** of family income in poor families where it is received



OCS has 16,864 **cases** around the world



National average cost of raising a child in low income family:  
**\$200,000**



# A Good Investment

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Studies show that receipt of child support -

- Increases economic independence of parents
- Reduces child poverty
- Reduces reliance on public assistance benefits
- Encourages parents to exit and remain off public assistance
- Increases parental involvement of paying parents



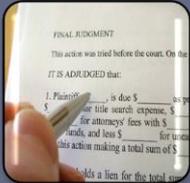
# OCS Mission

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The Office of Child Support works to improve children's economic security by:



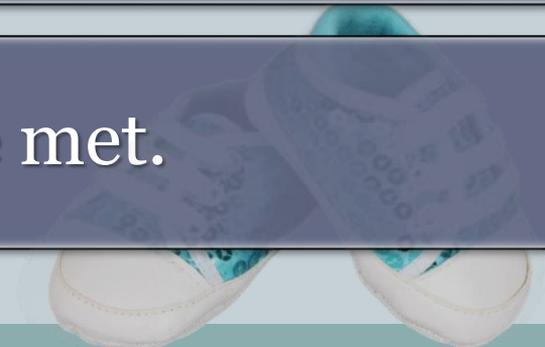
Establishing parentage,



Establishing child support and medical obligations, and



Ensuring obligations are met.



# Who Receives OCS Services?

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- Parents who receive child support
- Parents who pay child support
- Guardians



# How is OCS Structured?

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- 110 Full-Time Employees
- 6 Regional Offices
- Intercept Unit (Administrative Collections)
- Record Center
- Cash Receipts Unit
- Customer Service Unit
- Central Office Administrative Staff



# What Does OCS Do?

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Locate Parents



Administrative Actions



Court Actions



Cash Receipts and Distribution



Registry



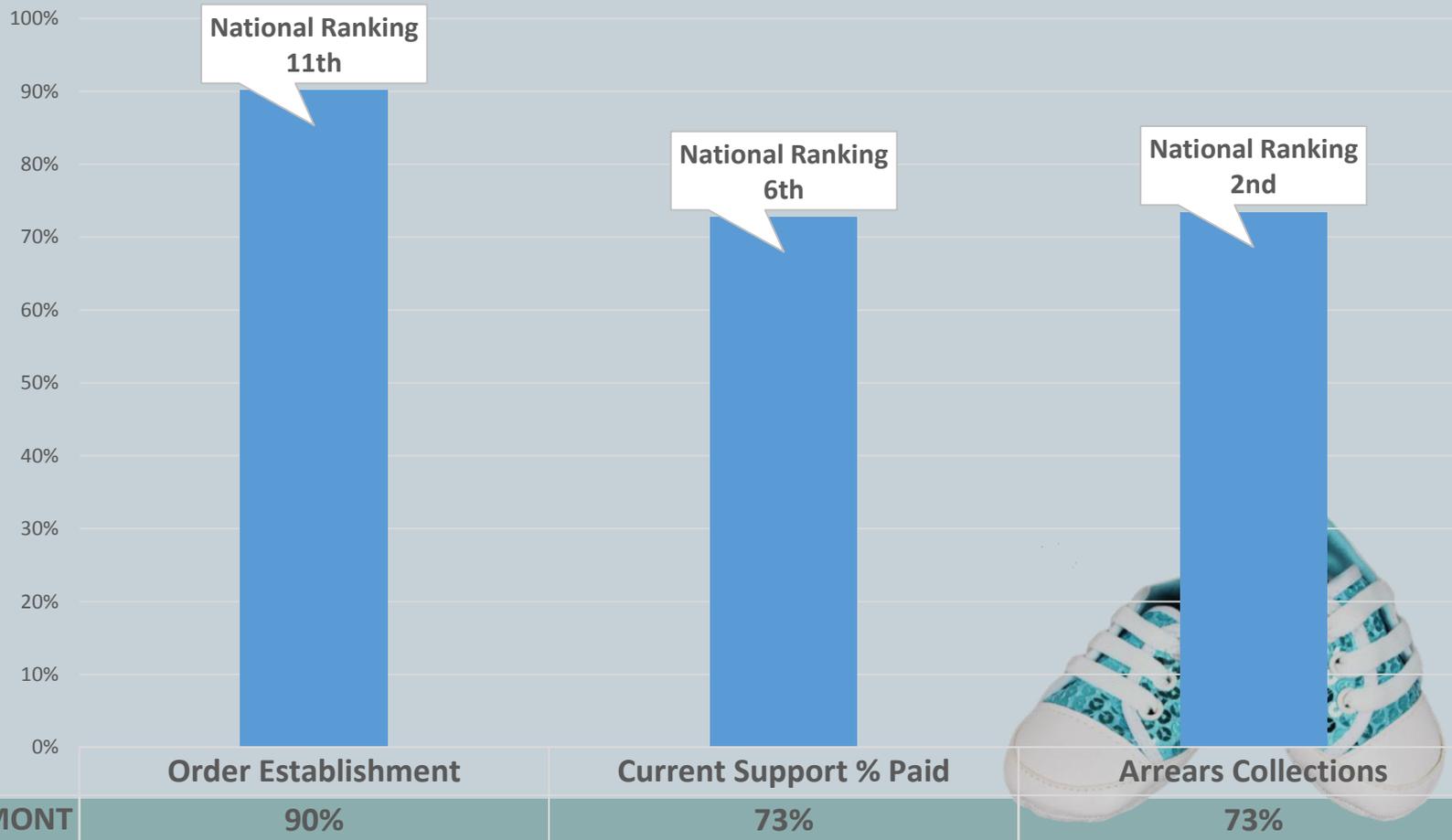
Customer/Employer Service



# How is Vermont Doing?

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Key Performance Measures, FFY 2015



# Other Important Statistics

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- Collections - \$50,414,687.00  
Public Assistance Recovery - \$2,419,243.00
- Caseload – 16,864 => serving 18,884 children  
2,927 PA cases & 13,937 Non-PA cases
- Interstate – 19% of cases, parents reside in different states  
(1002 with VT jurisdiction; 2,156 other state jurisdiction)
- Court Appearances in VT Family – 8,882



# How do we do it?

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Locate Actions



Genetic Testing



Child Support Guidelines



Wage Withholding, Admin intercepts, Liens, etc



Civil Court Actions



Criminal Non Support



# New Innovative Practices & Improvements

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- Work 4 Kids Program
- Behavioral Interventions for Child Support – Federal Experimental Grant
- Employer Log-in



# Our Regional Offices

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North **St. Albans**  
Franklin, Grand Isle

Northwest  
**Burlington**  
Chittenden

Southwest **Rutland**  
Addison, Rutland,  
Bennington

Northeast **St. J**  
Lamoille, Caledonia,  
Orleans

Central **Barre**  
Washington, Essex,  
Orange

Southeast  
**Springfield**  
Windsor, Windham

# More Info

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## OCS Website

<http://dcf.vermont.gov/ocs/>



## Parent Handbook

